

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR,JR:LG
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JUSTICE:MMENDELSON (PHONE)
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R 241423Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, CFED, SHUM, PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF NAZI WAR CRIMES

1. MARTIN MENDELSON, CHIEF, OFFICE OF SPECIALLITIGATION,
MET WITH POLISH EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARIES DUCHOWSKI
(POLITICAL) AND PILAT (COUNSULAR) ON JANUARY 19, ALONG WITH
THE EE DESK OFFICER, TO DISCUSS COOPERATION IN THE INVESTI-
GATION OF ALLEGED NAZI WAR CRIMINALS IN THE U.S. MENDELSON
EXPLAINED THAT HIS OFFICE HAS BEEN RECENTLY ESTABLISHED TO
COORDINATE JUSTICE'S INVESTIGATIONS IN THIS AREA, AND HE
STRESSED THE ADMINISTRATION'S STRONG INTEREST IN MOVING
AHEAD QUICKLY ON THESE INVESTIGATIONS CITING POLISH
EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE, MENDELSON ASKED HOW HE COULD
BEST OBTAIN POLISH ASSISTANCE IN SUCH MATTERS AS RECORDS
CHECKS, IDENTIFICATION OF WITNESSES AND THE TAKING OF
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TESTIMONY.

2. THE POLISH EMBASSY OFFICERS VOICED ENTHUSIASM ABOUT
MENDELSON'S MISSION, AND STRESSED THEIR GOVERNMENT'S
DESIRE TO COOPERATE FULLY. THEY EXPLAINED THE ORGANIZATION
AND MISSION OF DR. CZESLAW PILICHOWSKI'S MAIN COMMISSION
FOR INVESTIGATION OF NAZI CRIMES IN POLAND, DESCRIBING IT

AS PERHAPS THE CLOSEST EQUIVALENT TO MENDELSON'S OWN OFFICE. THEY NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT, THE COMMISSION IS

ATTACHED TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND HAS PROSECUTING AUTHORITY. ALTHOUGH THEY SAID THE POLISH MFA WOULD GLADLY ASSIST, THE EMBASSY OFFICERS RECOMMENDED THAT MENDOLSON ESTABLISH DIRECT CONTACT WITH DR. PILICHOWSKI AND GAVE HIM THE ADDRESS.

3. MENDELSON PLANS TO WRITE PILICHOWSKI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE AGREES THAT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE FOR THE EMBASSY TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH DR. PILICHOWSKI AND PRESENT THE LETTER PERSONALLY. EVENTUALLY, HOWEVER, MENDELSON WANTS TO ESTABLISH AS DIRECT CONTACT AS POSSIBLE, WHILE KEEPING THE DEPARTMENT AND THE EMBASSY INFORMED. - -

4. MENDELSON HOPES TO TRAVEL TO POLAND, POSSIBLY IN LATE SPRING, TO MEET PILICHOWSKI AND OTHERS AT THE COMMISSION AND TO VISIT SOME SITES OF NAZI CRIMES. IN THE MEANTIME, HE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND MATERIAL THE EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE. SUCH THINGS AS MAPS WITH LOCATIONS OF THE VARIOUS EXTERMINATION CAMPS, DESCRIPTIONS OF THE CAMPS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS AND PROCEDURES, INFORMATION ABOUT THE NAZI OCCUPATION ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED MATTERS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE WILL PROVIDE WHATEVER WE CAN LOCATE HERE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SECURING WHATEVER YOU CAN FOR US TO PASS TO MENDELSON. VANCE

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